BEDWELLTY

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URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

The Annual Reports

of the

Chief Public Health Inspector

&

Medical Officer of Health

Year ended 31st December, 1971.

Bedwellty Urban District Council

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and the
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BEDWELLTY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

1971 - 1972

Chairman - Councillor W.E. Park, B.A.

Vice-Chairman - Councillor W.D.G.Cole.

MEMBERS

Councillor R.R. Bryant, M.M.
" P.G. Bullen, D.F.C.
" E.J. Butler
" Mrs. E. Davies
" G.A. Davies
" F.E. Evans
" L. Gardiner (From Dec. 71)
" G.C. Garrett, C.Eng.,A.M.I.M.E.
" G.O. Higgins
" E.G. Hodges
" Mrs. R. James

Councillor H. Lewis
" M.E.E. Lloyd
" B. Mantle
" K. Meade
" G.C. Nelmes
" Mrs. M.R. Powell
" H.C. Robinson
" G.H. Thomas (To Sept.71)
" J.D. Turner
" D.G. Werrett
" Mrs. D. Williams

HOUSING AND PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman - Councillor K. Meade

Vice-Chairman - Councillor E.G. Hodges

Councillor R.R. Bryant, M.M.
" P.G. Bullen, D.F.C.
" W.D.G. Cole
" Mrs. E. Davies
" G.A. Davies
" F.E. Evans
" G.O. Higgins

Councillor H. Lewis
" M.E.E. Lloyd
" B. Mantle
" G.C. Nelmes
" G.H. Thomas (To Sept.71)
" J.D. Turner
" D.G. Werrett (From Oct.71)

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF

Medical Officer of Health	Dr. A. Trenhaile, L.M.S.S.A. (London) D.P.H.
Chief Public Health Inspector	A.M. Coleman, J.P., F.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H. (Qualified Meat and Food Inspector).
Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector ..	E.J. Francis, C.R.S.H. (Qualified Meat and Food Inspector)
Public Health and Shops Inspector	R. Mitchard, M.A.P.H.I. (Dip.P.H.I.E.B.)
Student Public Health Inspector	D. Watson.
Rodent Operator and Part-time Mortuary and Post Mortem Attendant	G. Hart
Shorthand Typist/Clerk	Mrs. M.H. Gay

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS FOR 1971

Area of District in acres	7,353
Population (Census 1961)	27,336
(Census 1971)	25,280
Estimated population for birth and death rates 1971 ...	25,280
Number of inhabited houses as at 31st December, 1971 ...	8,286
Number of persons per house	3.05
Rateable Value as at 31st March, 1971	£616,026
Product of penny rate 1970/71	£2,305
Number of live births	452
Crude birth rate	17.9
Number of illegitimate births	18
Number of deaths	288
Crude death rate	11.4
Number of deaths under one year	5
Infantile mortality per 1,000 live births	11.0

BEDWELLTY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Public Health Department,
Municipal Offices,
Aberbargoed,
Bargoed,
Glam.
CF8 9UB.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Bedwellty Urban District Council.

1st September, 1972.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my duty to present to you my Annual Report for the year 1971 dealing with the sanitary circumstances, sanitary administration and vital statistics of the district.

The report is presented in accordance with the Public Health Officers Regulations 1959, and on the lines indicated by Circular 1/72 of the Health Department, Welsh Office.

Physical Features

The Bedwellty Urban District, which covers an area of 7,353 acres, is situated in the north west of Monmouthshire and occupies a hill ridge and parts of two valleys. The greatest length from north to south is six and a half miles and its maximum width from east to west is two and a half miles. It is bounded by the Rhymney River in the west and to the east by the Sirhowy River.

The altitude varies from 1,499 feet above sea level at Cefn Manmoel on the north east boundary to 400 feet above sea level on the southern boundary at Victoria Road, Fleur-de-lis. The altitude at the Municipal Offices is 718 feet above sea level.

General Statistics and Social Conditions

The Registrar General's estimate of the district population as at 30th June, 1971 was 25,280.

Although coal mining remains the principal industry, various light industries have been established on new industrial sites. These include the manufacture of yarn, clothing, shoes and various plastic products, using mainly female labour.

Populations (Preliminary Census Report 1971) of Adjacent Urban Districts

Abercarn U.D.	18,468	Gelligaer U.D.	33,670
Abertillery U.D.	21,140	Mynyddislwyn U.D.	15,369
Bedwas & Machen U.D.	12,548	Rhymney U.D.	8,051
Ebbw Vale U.D.	26,049	Tredegar U.D.	17,976

VITAL STATISTICS - 1971

MOTHERS AND INFANTS

LIVE BIRTHS

Number of births registered during year 452

	Males	Females
Legitimate	232	202
Illegitimate	10	8
	242	210

Live birth rate per 1,000 population (crude) 17.9

Illegitimate live births (percent of total live births) .. 4.0

STILLBIRTHS

Number of stillbirths registered during the year 8

Stillbirths per 1,000 total live and stillbirths 17.4

TOTAL LIVE AND STILLBIRTHS 460

INFANT DEATHS (deaths under one year)

Deaths of Infants	Males			Females		
	Total	Leg.	Illeg.	Total	Leg.	Illeg.
Under 1 year of age	3	3	-	2	1	1
Under 4 weeks of age	2	2	-	1	-	1
Under 1 week of age	1	1	-	1	-	1

TOTAL NUMBER OF INFANT DEATHS UNDER ONE YEAR 5

INFANT MORTALITY RATES

Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births 11.0

Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births 9.0

Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births 56.0

NEO-NATAL MORTALITY RATE (deaths under four weeks per 1,000 live births) 7.0

EARLY NEO-NATAL MORTALITY RATE (deaths under one week per 1,000 live births) 4.0

PERI-NATAL MORTALITY RATE (stillbirths and deaths under one week combined per 1,000 total live and stillbirths) 22.0

Comparative Rates - 1971

	Bedwellty U.D.	Administrative County of Monmouth	England and Wales
Infant Mortality Rate	11.0	15.0	18.0
Peri-natal mortality Rate	22.0	24.0	22.0

Causes of Death of Infants Under One Year

Cause of Death	Number
Pneumonia	1
Congenital Anomalies	1
Disease of Digestive System	1
Birth injury and difficult labour etc.	2

MATERNAL MORTALITY

Number of deaths .. .. NIL

DEATHS 1971

Number of deaths during year 288

Death rate per 1,000 of population after correction of inward and outward transfers (crude rate) 11.4

Crude death rate for the previous years compared:-

1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971
10.5	9.9	12.1	10.1	13.4	12.7	11.9	11.4

The local death rate is comparable with that for England and Wales if the local rate is multiplied by the Registrar General's comparability factor of 1.30.

Comparative Death Rates (Adjusted) 1971

Bedwellty U. D.	Administrative County of Monmouth	England and Wales
14.8	13.4	11.6

65% of persons who died during the year had attained the age of 65 years and over, 33% were 75 years and over.

CAUSES OF DEATH 1971

CAUSE	MALES	FEMALES
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	2	-
Malignant Neoplasm, Oesophagus	1	-
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	10	4
Malignant Neoplasm, Intestine	3	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	14	-
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	-	3
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	-	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Prostate	3	-
Leukaemia	1	-
Other Malignant Neoplasms	7	8
Diabetes Mellitus	2	1
Other Endocrine etc. Diseases	-	1
Other Diseases of Blood etc.	1	-
Mental Disorders	1	-
Meningitis	-	1
Other Diseases of Nervous System	2	3
Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	1	4
Hypertensive Disease	2	3
Ischaemic Heart Disease	50	26
Other Forms of Heart Disease	4	15
Cerebrovascular Disease	18	14
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	4	5
Pneumonia	6	6
Bronchitis and Emphysema	18	9
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	8	-
Peptic Ulcer	1	1
Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia	-	1
Cirrhosis of Liver	-	1
Other Diseases of Digestive System	3	1
Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	-
Other Diseases, Genito-Urinary System	1	1
Congenital Anomalies	2	1
Birth Injury, Difficult Labour etc.	1	1
Symptoms and Ill-Defined Conditions	-	1
Motor Vehicle Accidents	1	1
All Other Accidents	4	2
TOTALS	172	116

Heart and circulatory diseases accounted for 51% of all deaths, cancer for 19% and respiratory diseases for 16%.

DEATHS FROM INFECTIOUS DISEASES

During the year there were no deaths from notifiable diseases, except from Tuberculosis.

NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

	Males	Females
Scarlet Fever	1	-
Whooping Cough	10	14
Measles	53	61
Infective Hepatitis	15	10
Totals	79	85

COMPARISON OF NOTIFICATIONS AND DEATHS FROM PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS DURING THE LAST TEN YEARS

Year	Formal Notifications	Deaths
1962	5	3
1963	13	1
1964	8	3
1965	7	-
1966	8	1
1967	4	3
1968	6	1
1969	2	1
1970	3	1
1971	8	-

CHEST RADIOLOGY

The Mass Radiography Service of the Welsh Hospital Board visited the district during May and July.

The total number of people examined was 2,012, and the number of X-rays found to be abnormal was 173 or 8.6%. Of these abnormal cases 15 or 0.7% required further observation.

WATER SUPPLIES

On the whole the quality of the water supplied was satisfactory. Chemical analysis showed little or no plumbo-solvency and fluoride was negligible.

In the Rhymney Valley water is supplied by the Taf Fechan Water Board, and in the Sirhowy Valley by the Gwent Water Board.

RAINFALL DURING 1971

The following information on rainfall was recorded at Bloomfield Road, Blackwood, and kindly supplied by the Engineer and Surveyor, Mr. T.I. Thomas.

MONTHLY RAINFALL FOR 1971

Month	Inches
January	9.29
February	2.56
March	3.38
April	1.97
May	3.58
June	4.12
July	0.74
August	7.88
September	1.06
October	4.65
November	2.40
December	2.59

Total Rainfall for 1971 = 44.22 inches

I wish to express my appreciation to the staff of the Public Health Department for their efforts during the year, and also to thank members of the Council and officers and staff of other departments for their co-operation.

Yours faithfully,

A. TRENHAILE,

Medical Officer of Health.

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S REPORT

Telephone: Bargoed 2361/7

Public Health Department,
Municipal Offices,
Aberbargoed,
Bargoed,
Glam.
CF8 9UB.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Bedwellty Urban District Council.

1st September, 1972.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report on the work done in the Public Health Department during 1971.

.....

HOUSING

(a) Repair of Privately Owned Houses

Approximately 300 complaints from house occupiers were received and investigated regarding defects of repair. As a result of this action 252 houses were repaired during the year, by service of Notice under the Public Health Act 1936, and these houses were situated as follows:-

Phillipstown	42
New Tredegar	29
Aberbargoed	94
Fleur-de-lis	14
Blackwood	14
Markham	59
Hollybush	-

The majority of houses involved above are those owned by the National Coal Board including those recently purchased by the Council.

On several occasions repairs were effected by agreement with owners who had difficulty in obtaining builders to carry out the work. There is a scarcity of local builders who undertake repair work at the present time due to the large increase in the amount of standard grant and improvement grant works, which is, of course, more attractive to local contractors.

(b) Slum Clearance

The following individually unfit houses were represented as unfit and incapable of being repaired at a reasonable expense:-

Holly House, Cefn Road, Blackwood
3 Argoed Buildings, The Rock, Blackwood
4 Argoed Buildings, The Rock, Blackwood
Hillcrest, Upper Trelyn, Fleur-de-lis
1 Argoed Buildings, The Rock, Blackwood
2 Argoed Buildings, The Rock, Blackwood
9 Hall Street, Blackwood
2 Isycoed Cottages, Blackwood
28 High Street, Argoed
30 High Street, Argoed
1a Jubilee Road, New Tredegar
34 High Street, Argoed

The following houses were made subject to Demolition or Closing Orders after representation:-

25 Railway Terrace, Hollybush.
9 Upper Road, Cwmsyfiog.
11 Upper Road, Cwmsyfiog.
13 Upper Road, Cwmsyfiog.
15 Upper Road, Cwmsyfiog.
1a Jubilee Road, New Tredegar.
9 Hall Street, Blackwood.
2 Isycoed Cottages, Blackwood.
3 Argoed Buildings, The Rock, Blackwood.
4 Argoed Buildings, The Rock, Blackwood.
28 High Street, Argoed.
30 High Street, Argoed.
34 High Street, Argoed.

Clearance Areas were represented as follows:-

21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 31, 33 and 35 High Street, Blackwood.
32, 33 and 34 Castle Street, Fleur-de-lis.
5, 6, 7 and 8 Argoed Buildings, The Rock, Blackwood.
30, 31, 32 and 33 School Street, Fleur-de-lis.

(c) Improvement of Houses

Details of Standard Grants for 1971 were as follows:-

Number of Applications	126
Number of Applications approved ..	120
Number of Applications paid	48
Provision of bath	40
Provision of wash hand basin	43
Provision of hot water supply	43
Provision of internal W.C.	46
Provision of sink	21

Total number of houses improved by the above installations - 48

The number of owners taking up Discretionary Improvement Grants is now overtaking those having Standard Grants, especially where there is the opportunity of effecting repairs together with improvements with the 75% grant, and, in fact, the owners are being persuaded to take up this type of grant in order that housing standards may be lifted. All applicants are visited at their houses and given advice, and whilst this takes considerable time, there is no doubt that it is well spent in that better housing conditions are ensuing.

PET ANIMALS ACT 1951

Two premises are licensed as pet shops - one at New Tredegar and one at Blackwood. Both were inspected on several occasions and kept in a satisfactory manner.

ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENTS ACT 1961

One licence is in operation for a Dogs and Cats Boarding Establishment - at Hollybush.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES

There is no common lodging house in the area.

COUNCIL HOUSES

Prospective tenants for council houses are visited by the department to ascertain standard of cleanliness. Where the standard is unsatisfactory the applications are deferred for further inspection after a reasonable period. Such action is occasionally necessary.

The new Bryn Road site entailed nearly 400 inspections. A few tenants are not up to standard as regards cleanliness and whilst every encouragement is given to obtain an improvement it may be necessary to take more stringent action if this improvement is not forthcoming.

Number of prospective tenants visited	245
Number of transfers and exchanges visited	95
Number of vacant council houses inspected	55

Some routine inspection of council houses is also carried out in pursuance of duties under the Housing Acts and Public Health Acts as is also required for privately-owned premises.

PUBLIC MORTUARY AND POST MORTEM ROOM

These services are provided by the Council. Cleaning and maintenance is carried out by Mr. G. Hart.

RODENT CONTROL

The number of complaints of rat or mouse infestation remains fairly static on the whole, and treatments were carried out at 292 private dwellings and 11 business premises. Efforts are made to carry out disinfestation immediately on report and in connection with this work nearly 600 surveys have been made. The baiting of all sewer manholes on at least two occasions during the year was again carried out using Warfarin poison and there is no doubt that this action does much to remove or keep down infestation.

BEDWELLTY SWIMMING BATHS

Check sampling was carried out by the Public Health Department at frequent intervals for chlorine content and acidity of the water. This sampling is in addition to that carried out as routine by the Baths Manager.

Records are maintained.

Bacteriological samples were taken on 15 occasions (63 samples). These were examined at the Public Health Laboratory, Newport.

Viewed as a series of samples over the year results were satisfactory.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE

The area is served by two trunk sewers with sea outfall. The village of Manmoel is served by a septic tank and biological filter.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT 1948, SECTION 50

The above Section of the National Assistance Act imposes a duty on the local authority "to cause to be buried or cremated the body of any person who has died or has been found dead in their area, in any case where it appears to the authority that no suitable arrangements for the disposal of the body have been or are being made otherwise than by the authority".

For this purpose the Council have a contract with Mr. Herbert Jones, Undertaker, Blackwood (Telephone - Blackwood 2365). The contract also includes the removal of the body of a person found dead on the public highway or in any public place.

It was necessary to proceed under this Section once during 1971.

HAIRDRESSERS AND BARBERS

Ward	Ladies	Gentlemen
New Tredegar	3	2
Aberbargoed	3	-
Pengam & Fleur-de-lis	2	2
Cefn Fforest	3	1
Blackwood	11	3
Argoed, Markham and Hollybush	2	1

These premises are inspected to ascertain compliance with bye-laws relating to cleanliness.

WATER SUPPLY

Bacteriological sampling of public water supplies was carried out at approximately fortnightly intervals. The samples were transported to and examined at the Public Health Laboratory, Newport.

80 samples were taken and the results were satisfactory.

Sirhowy Valley Supply - 18
Rhymney Valley Supply - 62

FACTORIES ACT 1961

PART I OF THE ACT

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Number of Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	-	-	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	35	40	-	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	-	-	1	-
Totals	35	40	1	-

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

Particulars	Found	Remedied	Referred		Number of Cases in which Prosecutions Were Instituted
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1.)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable Temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or Defective	-	-	-	-	-
(c) Not Separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	-	-	-	-	-

PART VIII OF THE ACT

There are no outworkers operating in the area.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963

Registration and General Inspections

Class of Premises	No. of Premises Registered during the year	Total No. of Registered Premises at	No. of Registered Premises receiving one or more Inspections during year
Offices	-	51	21
Retail Shops	-	96	67
Wholesale shops, Warehouses	-	1	1
Catering establishments opening to the public, canteens	-	12	12
Fuel storage depots	-	-	-
Totals	-	160	101

No. of Visits of all kinds - 167.

Notices Served during 1971

Contravention	No. of Notices
Cleanliness and Decoration	3
Repair of Structure	5
Safety on Stairs	2
Lack of washing facilities	2
Lack of First Aid Box	1
Lack of Thermometer	1
Defective Machinery	1

Inspections

101, or nearly all registered premises were inspected and a number of follow-up visits have been made. There were very few contraventions under the Act and, where they did exist, conditions were rectified by informal action.

D. Accidents

Accidents occurring in shops and offices are to be reported by employers to the authority. Investigations are made to ascertain the causes and reports are sent to the Department of Employment. Two accidents to employees were reported and investigated. It was not necessary to take legal action.

The accident causes were:-

Falls on stairs or floors - 2.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

Daily readings were continued at the Municipal Offices, Aberbargoed, and the volumetric apparatus recorded smoke concentration and sulphur dioxide.

Below is a table of results to nearest whole numbers of average daily concentrations during each month. The measurement units are microgrammes per cubic metre of air.

Month	Smoke Concentration	Sulphur Dioxide Content
January	62	80
February	62	75
March	43	61
April	52	65
May	30	49
June	25	34
July	21	28
August	28	40
September	71	46
October	43	32
November	84	25
December	67	40

Offences under the Clean Air Act 1968, which prohibits the emission of dark smoke from any trade or industrial premises, have been dealt with informally These offences occurred at four premises.

FOOD SUPERVISION

(a) Meat Inspection

There is no abattoir in the area. During leave absence assistance was given to the Bedwas and Machen Urban District Council in meat inspection at the Maesycwmmer Abattoir.

(b) Condemned Food

Nearly $2\frac{1}{2}$ tons of foodstuffs were destroyed as unfit. Most of this was surrendered by shopkeepers in the course of inspections.

Disposal was by burial in Council refuse tips, under supervision.

(c) Food Poisoning

No outbreak of food poisoning was notified to the Department.

(d) Other Food Premises

Premises where food is prepared, stored or distributed were under constant supervision.

Such premises include:-

(i) School canteens (17) which were in a satisfactory condition although some redecoration was required in four and two minor items in a further two canteens.

(ii) Restaurants and Cafes (11). These are small in character and it was not necessary to take any remedial action during the year.

(iii) Pithead Canteens (2).

(iv) Factory Canteens (6).

(v) Fried Fish Shops (12). Failure to maintain stock rotation resulted in a successful prosecution of one proprietor who sold infested chicken portions.

(vi) Butchers' Shops (19), including three butchery departments of supermarkets.

(vii) Public Houses and Clubs

No. of Licensed premises ...	49
No. of inspections made ...	72

A number of inspections were made at these premises and where appropriate, notification was made to the proprietors regarding defects under the Food Hygiene Regulations. Whilst conditions were generally satisfactory it was necessary to deal with the undermentioned items:-

	No. of Premises
Decoration of cellars	6
Decoration or repair of sanitary accommodation	9
Decoration of bar and servery	3
Disrepair	5

Notices were complied with in each case.

(e) Food and Drugs Administration

The Monmouthshire County Council are the authority carrying out this work in the area. Several cases of foods not being of the nature, substance or quality demanded, and containing foreign bodies, were referred for action.

Below is an extract from a report by the Chief Weights and Measures Inspector (Mr. D.D. Lewis), Monmouthshire County Council.

"Samples taken:- Milk - 45; Other Foods - 51; Ice-cream - 2.

Total - 98.

All but three of the above samples were Genuine, the not genuine samples were two cases of mould in dried nutmeg and one of a maggot in a tin of tomatoes. A caution was issued in all cases."

I wish to record my thanks to the members and officers of the Council for their support during the year and to the members of the Health Department for their effective work.

Yours faithfully,

A. M. COLEMAN

Chief Public Health Inspecto